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Attestation

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The attached documents are exact copies of the European patent application described on the following page, as originally filed.

Les documents fixés à cette attestation sont conformes à la version initialement déposée de la demande de brevet européen spécifiée à la page suivante.

Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

00200330.9

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets
p.o.

I.L.C. HATTEN-HECKMAN

DEN HAAG, DEN
THE HAGUE, 13/12/00
LA HAYE, LE

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Blatt 2 der Bescheinigung
Sheet 2 of the certificate
Page 2 de l'attestation

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Anmelder:
Applicant(s):
Demandeur(s):
Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.
5621 BA Eindhoven
NETHERLANDS

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Method for displaying images on a matrix display device

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Method for displaying images on a matrix display device.

EPO - DG 1

01 02. 2000



Field of the invention

The invention relates to a method for displaying images on a subfield driven matrix display device.

The invention applies i.a. to plasma display panels (PDP's), plasma-addressed liquid crystal panels (PALC's), liquid crystal displays (LCD's), Polymer LED (PolyLED's), Electroluminescent (EL) used for personal computers, television sets and so forth.

Background of the invention.

A matrix display panel such as a plasma display panel comprises, as shown on fig 1, a set of data electrodes, usually extending in the column direction and a set of scanning electrodes usually extending in the row direction.

One method for displaying luminance levels in such a plasma display panel is known from EP 0 890 941. In this method, a field, as shown in fig. 2 comprises, say 8 subfields (in practice, 6 up to 12 subfields are used). Each subfield may comprise an erase period, for conditioning the panel, an address period, for priming the cells that should be lit during sustaining, and a sustaining period during which the actual light is generated. The sustaining period of each subfield is given for example, a weight of 128, 64, 32, 16, 8, 4, 2, or 1 corresponding to an 8-bit digital signal (b7,b6,b5,b4,b3,b2,b1) and allowing to obtain 256 luminance levels. The total sustaining period for one field should be as long as possible, in order to obtain a high brightness.

The erase period is rather short, say 0.2 ms , i.e. $8 \times 0.2 \text{ ms} = 1.6 \text{ ms}$ per field. The addressing period is about 3 μs per line. For a VGA display, comprising 480 display lines, the addressing period per subfield equals $480 \times 3 \mu\text{s} = 1.5 \text{ ms}$. At 8 subfields per field, the total addressing period is therefor 12 ms. At a field rate of 60Hz (period 16.6 ms), only 3ms is left as the total sustaining period per field.

The reduction of the addressing time is one of the main challenges in the design of a plasma display panel.

Methods have been developed for reducing the addressing period, increasing thereby the sustain period.

Two methods in order to reduce addressing period are disclosed in EP-A-0 890 941. In these methods, the high-weight subfields b8,b7,b6,b5 are addressed for each display line, and the low-weight subfields b4,b3,b2,b1 are addressed for only part of the display lines.

5 In the first of these methods, the odd low-weight subfields b3,b1 are addressed to odd-numbered scanning lines and the even low-weight subfields b4,b2 are addressed to even numbered scanning lines.

In the second of these methods, two adjacent scanning electrodes are addressed simultaneously with the same data (quasi-whole scanning).

10 Both of these methods allow a reduction of the addressing period by a factor of two for doubled subfields, or of the total addressing period by 25%, thereby allowing a substantial increase of the duration of the sustaining period.

These methods provide an improvement in the brightness of the video signal displayed, but at the price of a loss of the quality in comparison to the original signal. A loss
15 of resolution and/or of sharpness is induced by the omission of half of the lines in the first method, and by the duplication of the lines in the second method. Moreover, the average brightness of the image displayed may not correspond to that of the original image.

Summary of the invention

20 It is an object of the invention to provide a method for displaying successive image frames or fields on a matrix display device of which more than one line is simultaneously addressed to increase the brightness through a reduction of addressing time, in which less loss of resolution and/or introducing less motion artefacts in moving pictures occurs.

25 The invention provides a method for displaying successive image fields on a matrix display device as defined in claim 1. According to the invention, sets of adjacent lines (i.e. 2, 3 or more lines) are formed, and the same luminance value for some of the least significant subfields is displayed. By addressing more lines simultaneously, the addressing time is reduced, thereby leaving more time for the sustain period. The value displayed may
30 be the average value of the original individual values. By grouping the lines differently in successive frames and/or different areas of the display, further reduction of the addressing time is obtained, without loss of resolution.

More specific aspects of the invention are set out in the dependent claims.

These and other aspects of the invention will be apparent from and elucidated with reference to the embodiment(s) described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings.

5 Brief description of the drawings

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 schematically illustrates a prior art method (single line addressing);

Fig. 2 shows a subfield distribution, and the time gain obtained by double line addressing of the three least significant subfields;

10 Fig. 3 schematically illustrates a method where double line addressing is used;

Fig. 4 schematically illustrates a method according to the invention, where double line and double frame addressing is used;

Fig. 5 schematically illustrates methods according to the invention where different multiple line and multiple frame addressing is used;

15 Fig. 6 schematically illustrates methods according to the invention in various combinations;

Fig. 7 schematically illustrates a method according to the invention where double surface addressing is used, and

20 Fig. 8 shows a block diagram of a display apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

Detailed description of the preferred embodiment

Fig. 1 shows a display panel known in the art, where each row is addressed individually. Two electrodes are associated with each row; an address electrode Ae and a common electrode Ce. The arrow indicates the addressed row Ra. This leads to the timing diagram of a field shown in the upper half of Fig. 2, where the addressing time $T_{a,n}$ is the same for each subfield. It is well known that the addressing time $T_{a,n}$ may be reduced by the so called Line-doubling method, applied to some of the least significant subfields, and this is shown in the lower half of Fig. 2. Fig. 3 shows how two adjacent rows Ra_1 and Ra_2 are
25 addressed at the same time, with the same data. The addressing time $T_{a,s}$ is thereby reduced, leaving more time for the sustain period S. The high bars referred to as E represent the erasing periods. The triangles referred to as A represent the addressing periods, and the rectangles referred to as S represent the sustaining periods. The line doubling which occurs
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during the period T_d causes a time gain T_g which can be used to increase the duration of the sustaining period S .

The inventors have observed that a further improvement is obtained by combining and mixing several features.

5 A first improvement is obtained by grouping the lines in different sets of lines for different subfields.

Fig. 4 shows an example where lines are grouped in line pairs for odd fields, and in other pairs of lines, shifted by one line, for even fields.

10 A second improvement is obtained by displaying, not a copy of one of the original lines to the other lines in the set, as is known in prior art document EP 0 890 941 for double line addressing, but the average value of the original luminance value data of the set of lines.

A further improvement is obtained by grouping the lines differently in successive fields of frames.

15 Fig. 5 shows, (upper left example) how, for all frames and all subfields, the lines are grouped in pairs (double line, single frame addressing). In the second example on the left, lines are grouped in pairs of lines in odd frames, and in shifted pairs of lines in even frames (double line, dual frame addressing). In the third example (upper right example), lines are grouped in sets of three lines for all frames and some subfield(s) (triple line, single frame
20 addressing). The addressing time for said subfield(s), is thereby reduced to one third. In the fourth example (middle right example), lines are grouped in sets of three lines in odd frames, and in other sets of three lines, shifted by one line, for even frames (triple line, dual frame addressing). The last example of Fig. 5 (lower right example) shows triple line, triple frame addressing. The sets of three lines are shifted by one line for each successive frame.

25 A wide range of combinations may be realised within the framework of the invention. Fig 6 shows further examples of valid combinations. In the upper example of Fig 6, double line addressing is used in odd frames or in the odd fields, and single line addressing is used in even frames or in the even fields. In the lower example of Fig. 6, triple line, triple frame addressing is interspersed with double line, double frame addressing.

30 The above methods may be applied differently for each subfield. The loss of definition resulting from triple line addressing may be acceptable if using triple (or higher-multiple) line addressing for the lowest least significant subfields, and double line addressing for the higher least significant subfields.

The above methods can also be applied differently for different regions of the display (multiple surface addressing). Fig. 7 shows an example of a display device that is independently addressable in the upper and the lower half regions (U and L). In this example, one method is applied for the upper half region, and another method is applied for the lower half region, for one frame or field, and the methods are reversed for the next successive frame or field.

Although all examples above show deterministic sequences and combinations, random sequences of multiple line, multiple frame, multiple surface for randomly selected subfield combinations may be used. A subset of allowed addressing methods is established, and a random selection within that subset is performed.

Fig. 8 shows a block diagram of a display apparatus according to an embodiment of the invention.

A subfield driven matrix display device DD has row conductors RC selected by an addressing circuit AC. A data supplying circuit DC receiver image data ID to supply data to column conductors CD. A control circuit CC controls the addressing circuit AC and the data supplying circuit DC.

For example, during the addressing period A of a predetermined subfield, the control circuit CC instructs: the addressing circuit AC to address (select) two adjacent row conductors, and the data supplying circuit to supply the same data to the selected row conductors to prime two rows with the same data.

During the sustaining period, the control circuit CC instructs the addressing circuit AC to supply a number of sustaining pulses to the row conductors corresponding to the weight of the subfield.

While the invention has been described in connection with preferred embodiments, it will be understood that modifications thereof within the principles outlined above will be evident to those skilled in the art, and thus the invention is not limited to the preferred embodiments but is intended to encompass such modifications.

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CLAIMS:

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1. A method for displaying successive image frames or fields on a subfield driven matrix display device comprising display lines being addressed in sets of adjacent lines, said image frames or fields having original luminance value data being coded in subfields comprising a group of most significant subfields, and a group of least significant subfields, a common luminance value data being supplied to lines of a set of said sets of lines characterised in that

said addressing in sets of adjacent lines is performed differently for (i) successive frames or fields and/or (ii) for different regions of the display device and/or (iii) for different subfields.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said common luminance value data for said at least one of the least significant subfields is obtained by averaging the corresponding least significant subfield original luminance value data of said set of lines.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said sets of lines comprise sets of two lines.

4. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said sets of lines comprise sets of three lines.

5. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said sets of adjacent lines comprise sets of lines having the same number of lines, said sets being shifted by one or more lines in each successive frame.

6. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said display device comprises a first region being the upper half of the display, and a second region being the lower half of the display.

7. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said grouping of lines for each successive frame or field, and for different regions of the display device is performed in a random manner.

5 8. A display apparatus comprising a subfield driven display derice for displaying successive image frames or fields on display lines, said image frames or fields having original luminance value data being coded in subfields comprising a group of most significant subfields and a group of least significant subfields, the display apparatus further comprising means for addressing the display device in sets of adjacent lines, and means for
10 supplying a common luminance value data to lines of a set of said set of lines, characterized in that

the display apparatus comprises means for selecting different sets of adjacent lines for:

- (i) successive frames or fields, and/or
- (ii) for different regions of the display device, and/or
- 15 (iii) for different subfields.

ABSTRACT:

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A method for displaying successive image frames on a matrix display device, where said device comprises a set of lines, and luminance value data are coded in subfields, e.g. plasma display panels (PDP's), plasma-addressed liquid crystal panels (PALC's), liquid crystal displays (LCD's), Polymer LED (PolyLED's), Electroluminescent (EL) used for personal computers, television sets and so forth.

In order to reduce addressing time, without impairing image definition, and without creating motion artefacts, grouping of adjacent lines in sets of lines is performed differently for each successive frame, and for different regions of the display device, e.g. lines may be grouped by three in the upper half of the display, and by two in the lower one, in odd frames, and reversely in even frames. A common luminance value data for one or more subfields is addressed simultaneously to all lines of a set of lines.

Fig. 5

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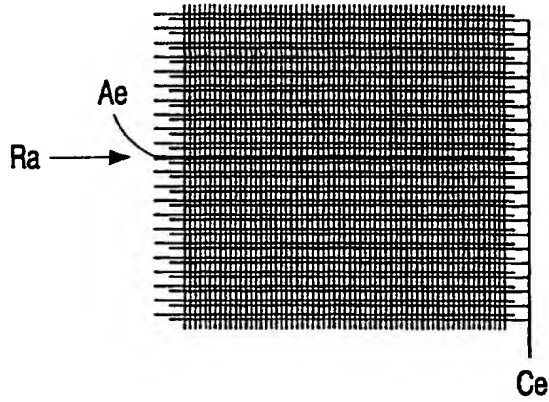


FIG. 1

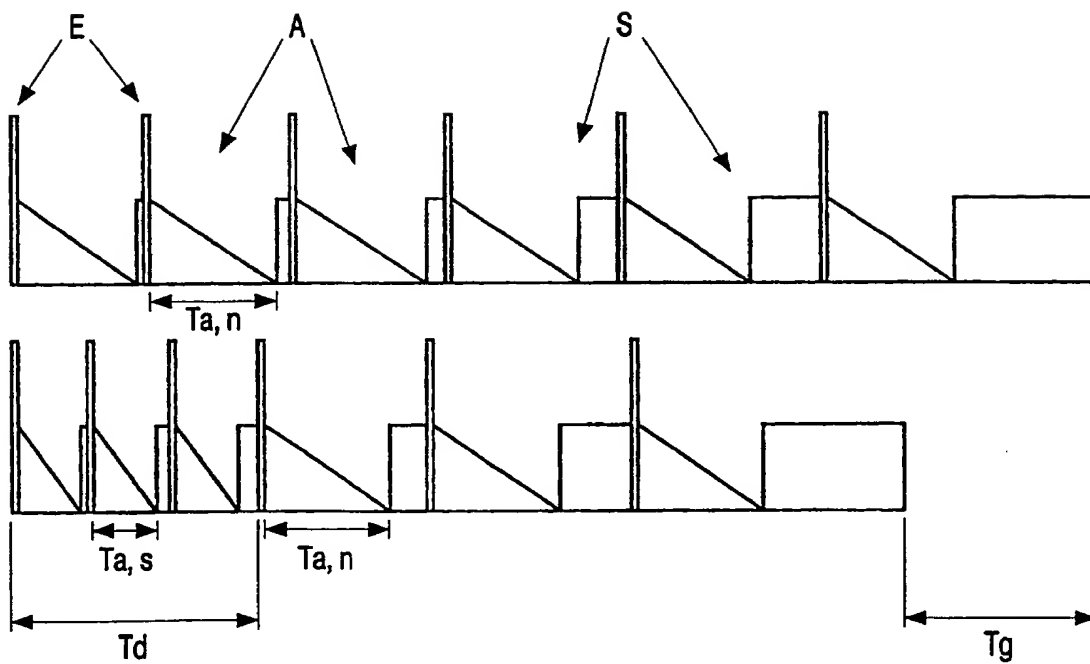


FIG. 2

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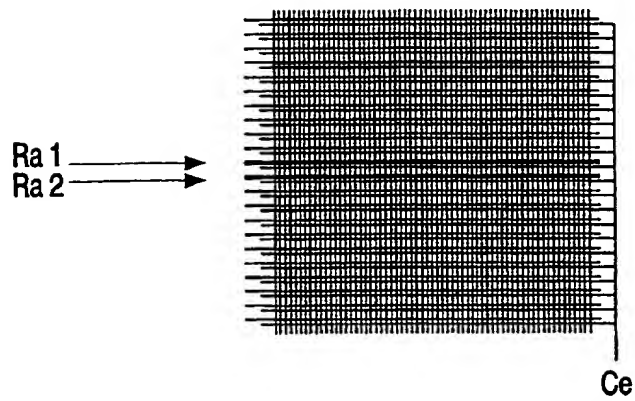


FIG. 3

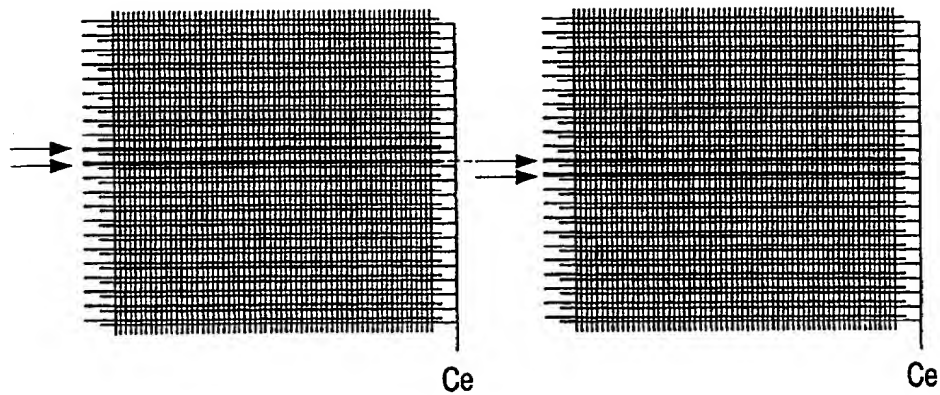


FIG. 4

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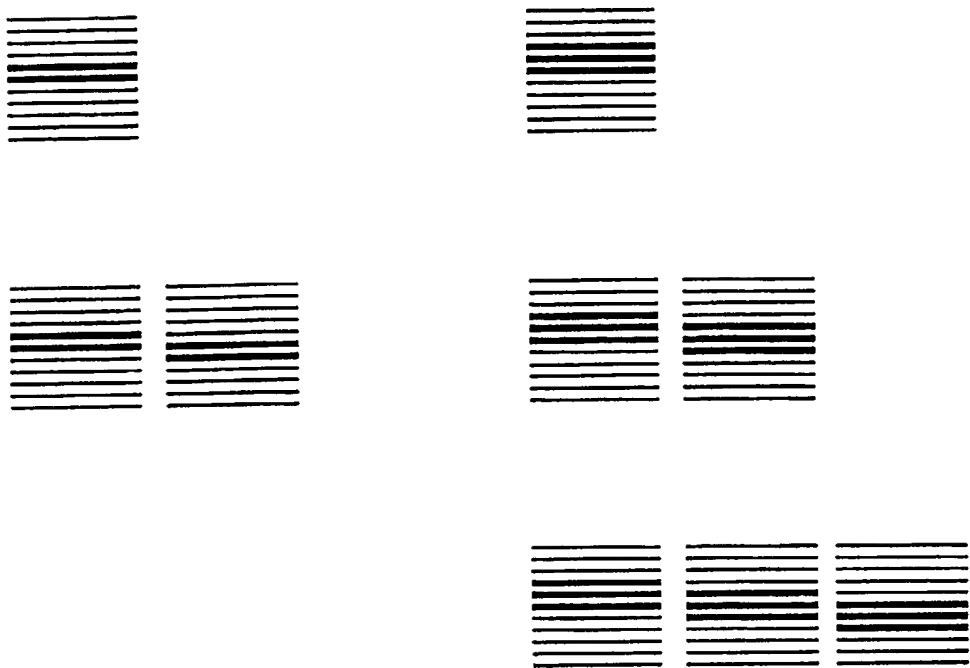


FIG. 5

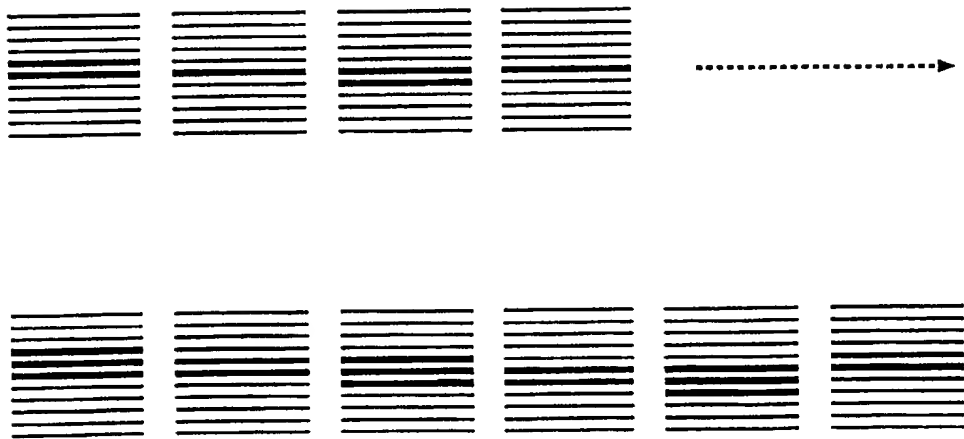


FIG. 6

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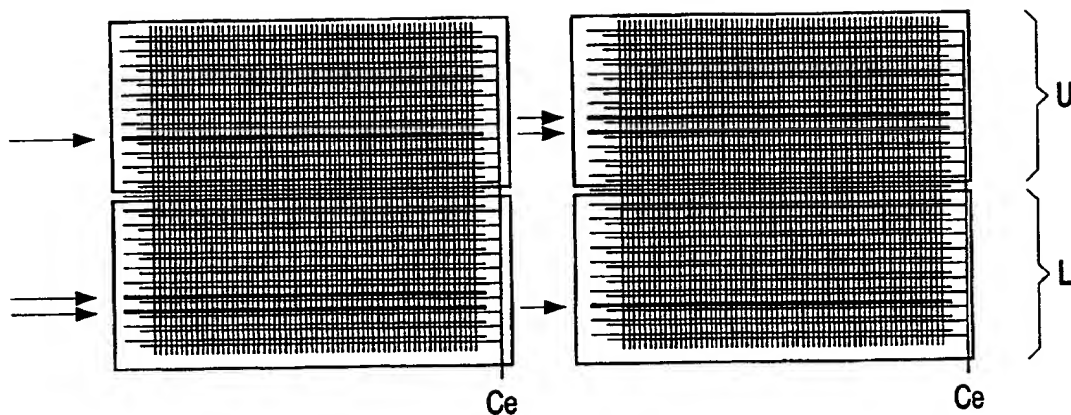


FIG. 7

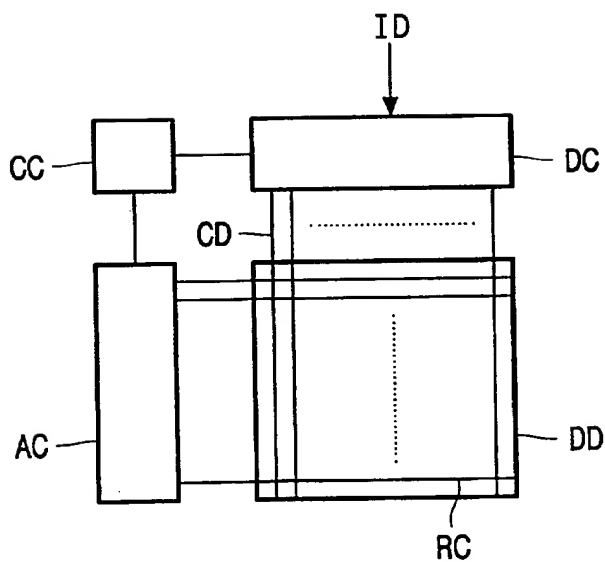


FIG. 8